

St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2014

The meeting of the St. Marys DDA was called to order by Straight at 8:30 am.

Members Present: Bill Bruce, Charlie Smith, Jim Lomis, Gary Straight, Cheri Richter, Councilman Dave Reilly, and Terry Landreth

Members not Present: N/A

Guest in attendance: Barbara Ryan

Staff: Renée Coakley; Executive Assistant & Robby Horton; Interim City Manager

Minutes: The May 12, 2014 meeting minutes were presented by Smith. It was noted that under the Gem Bottling Plant section some of the information needs to be clarified after a meeting that was had by the DDA Chair and another board member. Based on the information received at that meeting, the statement in regards to the property being listed with a firm in Atlanta was incorrect. This incorrect information will be addressed further in these minutes. Motion to approve the minutes with the noted clarification in the June 9th minutes was made by Smith and seconded by Lomis. All were in favor.

Treasurers Report: Smith presented the financials for the month and motion to approve the financials was made by Smith and seconded by Bruce. All were in favor of.

Additions to the Agenda: The following were added to the agenda: GEM Bottling Plant, Regional Economic Development Training, and Vacant Real Estate in St. Marys by Straight.

Discussion was had in regards to the vacant property in the area. It was requested that the new Code Enforcement Officer be invited to a future meeting and offering the Code Enforcement Officer the opportunity to view the video that was created by Smith a few months ago. It was also noted that since the Redevelopment Powers Laws passed on a recent ballot, educating the local community is important. Lomis will create a point paper on the Redevelopment Powers Laws to educate the board in order to educate the community. Bruce suggested the website <http://empowerstmarysga.weebly.com/> be used as well.

Motion to approve the agenda with the additions was made by Lomis and seconded by Landreth. All were in favor.

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

St. Marys Magazine Ad: Ryan reminded the board of the full page advertisement (\$1900 value) that the DDA receives quarterly in the St. Marys Magazine for \$450. Request is being made for the DDA to advertise in the upcoming July edition. Motion to approve the request was made by Reilly and seconded by Lomis. All were in favor. Ryan noted that the magazine party will be held on July 31st and the entire board is invited. Deadline to change the current ad is June 26th. Lomis suggested that the mention of Redevelopment Powers be added. Renée will email a copy of the ad to the board for suggested changes.

Team Camden: Nothing to report.

St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG): Straight noted that there is no new information to report. The June meeting will be canceled due to lack of anything to report. Forum will make a presentation to the committee during the summer with some updated information.

Maritime Heritage District (MHD): Richter reported that she Straight and the City Planning Director met in regards to several items still on hold due to permitting issues. Signs are currently up on the SMIG dock and that grant has been completed. St. Marys will be adding a 25 foot buffer to current ordinance due to recent changes in the state. This additional buffer was approved at the last City Council meeting.

Historic Tree Trail: Richter reported that the group is still working on the text for the signage. There will be approximately 19 signs in total.

Economic Development Committee: Lomis reported that there has been no change since the last meeting. The committee at the Chamber of Commerce is being reorganized. The function of that committee will be determined at an upcoming board retreat.

GEM Bottling Plant: Straight reported that he met with the person currently in charge of liquidating the plant. It was learned during that meeting that Gateway Behavioral Health System (GBHS) was providing approximately a \$300,000 contribution to keep the plant operating. Straight presented a letter that he sent to Mayor Morrissey regarding the information obtained from the meeting. The equipment in the building is currently listed to be sold. The last appraisal completed on the entire property was done in 2009 which valued the warehouse with a proposed addition at \$1.7 million. GBHS is willing to take \$500,000 for sale of this property.

Vacant Real Estate in St. Marys: Straight questioned if there is a database of available property for sale or lease from the waterfront to Charlie Smith Hwy. Renée reminded him of the DDA property books that are in the office but have not been updated for some time. Straight will review the binders in the near future.

Lomis revisited the advertisement in the St. Marys magazine. He suggested updating the information on the hospital award and including information about the recent obtaining of Redevelopment Powers Laws in the city. Renée will email a copy of the ad to the board and Straight suggested that changes be emailed to Renée by Friday, June 13th.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Businesses and Updates: Nothing to report.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am with motion by Reilly and second by Landreth. All were in favor.

Charlie Smith, Secretary
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant